

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 GUATEM 04828 062319Z

20

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

/058 W

----- 030730

R 062250Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2258

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSQ SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 4828

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: PINT, GT

SUBJ: SON OF EX-PRESIDENT ARANA SHOT

1. ROBERTO "TITO" ARANA ESPANA, SON OF EX-PRESIDENT ARANA, WAS THE VICTIM OF AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AT 1355 HOURS JULY 5.

2. ACCORDING TO VARIOUS NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS ARANA'S CAR, FOLLOWED BY A SECURITY CAR AND A CAR CONTAINING FRIEND AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATE GERARDO SAMPEDRO, WAS PROCEEDING DOWN ONE OF GUATEMALA CITY'S MAIN ARTERIES WHEN TWO VEHICLES, ONE A PICK-UP TRUCK, BEGAN TO PASS THEM. THREE WORKERS IN THE BACK OF THE PICK-UP, DRESSED AS TELEPHONE REPAIRMEN, OPENED FIRE WITH SUBMACHINE GUNS.

3. ARANA WAS REPORTEDLY WOUNDED SEVERAL TIMES IN THE ARMS AND ONCE IN THE NECK. HE AND A BODYGUARD, ALSO WOUNDED, WERE TRANSPORTED TO THE ARMY HOSPITAL.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 GUATEM 04828 062319Z

A GENERAL WHO VISITED ARANA THIS MORNING TOLD AN

EMBOFF HE HAD BEEN OPERATED ON, WAS OUT OF INTENSIVE CARE AND TO A LAYMAN'S EYE OUT OF DANGER.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER APPROACHED CHARGE EVENING JULY 5 WITH REQUEST FOR LANDING CLEARANCE IN HOUSTON FOR PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE JET (GUATEMALAN AIR FORCE ONE), TO TAKE ARANA TO CIVILIAN MEDICAL FACILITIES THERE. CHARGE MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMMEDIATE TRANSMISSION OF CLEARANCE REQUEST AS SOON AS ETD AND ETA AVAILABLE. MEMBER PRESIDENTIAL STAFF TOLD EMBASSY MORNING JULY 6 THAT FLIGHT WAS ON STANDBY PENDING DECISION BY ARANA'S DOCTORS THAT HE COULD SAFELY BE MOVED. IN LIGHT FAVORABLE PROGNOSIS REPORTED ABOVE, IT IS POSSIBLE FLIGHT MAY NOT RPT NOT TAKE PLACE.

5. COMMENT: WE DO NOT RPT NOT YET KNOW WHO WAS BEHIND ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. TITO'S ENEMIES COVER THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM FROM LEFT TO RIGHT. DARING DAYLIGHT ATTACKS HAVE BEEN AN EGP (LEFT-WING GUERRILLA GROUP) SPECIALTY IN RECENT MONTHS; IF THIS WAS THEIR HANDIWORK, PRESS WILL PROBABLY SHORTLY RECEIVE A COMMUNIQUE CLAIMING CREDIT. IF THE EGP WAS RESPONSIBLE, OR BELIEVED BY THE RIGHT TO HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE, PRESSURE WILL INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY ON LAUGERUD TO CRACK DOWN HARDER ON LEFTIST GROUPS, REGARDLESS OF THE LEGALITY OF THE MEANS USED. LAUGERUD OBSERVED IN HIS STATE OF THE NATIONS SPEECH JULY 1, "PREVENTIVE ACTION AGAINST CRIME CANNOT BE EFFECTIVE WHEN THE CRIMINAL IS SHELTERED BY CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES...AS A GOVERNMENT THAT ACTS WITHIN THE LAW AND NOT OUTSIDE IT, OUR ACTION IS RULED BY THE LAW, WHICH SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD BY THOSE WHO CRITICIZE THE AUTHORITIES FOR LENIENCY AND DEMAND A STRONG HAND, BUT WHO ALSO PAINT THE GOVERNMENT AS REPRESSIVE AND DICTATORIAL, AND DISRESPECTFUL OF HUMAN RIGHTS." HIS DILEMMA HAS NOT BEEN MADE ANY EASIER BY YESTERDAY'S INCIDENT. WE HAVE ONE REPORT THAT GENERAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 GUATEM 04828 062319Z

ARANA IS URGING PRESIDENT LAUGERUD TO DECLARE A STATE OF SIEGE. ANDREWS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION, DEPENDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GUATEM04828
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760260-0963
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760789/aaaadaax.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <26 OCT 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SON OF EX-PRESIDENT ARANA SHOT
TAGS: PINT, PINS, GT, (ARANA ESPANA, ROBERTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006